



Commissioner's horizon scanning briefing

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1. Policy and Practice

[Largest police drone trial begins](#) – 11th April

Four new Aeryon SkyRanger drones will be used by Surrey and Sussex Police as part of a three-month trial following a successful Police Innovation Fund bid of almost £250,000. The drones will be used to support operations including missing person searches, protest response, airport security and crash scene investigation. Other forces trialling the use of drones include Warwickshire and West Mercia and Devon and Cornwall.

[New offence of breach of pre-charge bail announced](#) – 6th April 2016

Home Secretary announced a new offence of breach of pre-charge bail as part of amendments to the Policing and Crime Bill. This would make it a criminal offence for an individual arrested on suspicion of a terrorism offence and released on pre-charge bail to breach any conditions of that bail that prohibit them from leaving the country. The offence would carry a maximum penalty of 12 months imprisonment and/or a fine.

[£1.5 million funding to bring communities together](#) – 4th April 2016

Department for Communities and Local Government announced a further £1.5m round of funding for the [Near Neighbours programme](#) which provides small grants and support to grassroots groups to improve social interaction and social action in communities with significant religious diversity. Over 1,100 projects have been established in some of England's most diverse communities since the programme was launched in 2011.

[£200 million investment in services for vulnerable children and young people](#) – 3rd April 2016

Department for Education announced £200 million funding for the second round of the [Children's Social Care Innovation programme](#) which provides grants to councils and charities for innovative and creative new ways of delivering help for troubled children and young people. New funding opportunities for secure children homes to improve specialist training for staff in areas such as mental health support were also announced.

[Firearms licensing law 2016 Guidance](#) – 1st April 2016

Home Office published consolidated guidance on firearms licensing

[Statutory practice guidance on FGM](#) – 1st April 2016

Home Office plans to finalise draft FGM guidance following an analysis of consultation responses. The guidelines will complement other relevant guidance on child abuse and will be placed on a statutory footing to help promote effective implementation of legislation, including the new mandatory reporting duty.

2. Inspections

[Delivering justice in a digital age](#) – 13th April 2016

Joint thematic HMCPs and HMIC inspection of progress in delivering the [vision for a digital end-to-end criminal justice system](#) has found that despite some achievements, the police, CPS, courts and the defence still have some way to go to make the vision a reality. While 92% of cases transferred to the CPS from police are done so electronically, much of this still relies on manual processes such as scanning handwritten documents including Victim and witness statements which can often be hard to read. Agency IT systems still do not directly 'talk' to each other and there remains no single national police IT system to transfer information to the CPS in a consistent way. Each of the police forces visited as part of the inspection was using a different body worn video camera solution with little consideration of linking such projects together and maximising value for money. The inspection also identified that there was no reliable way of sharing CCTV, interview and 999 recordings, photos and video footage digitally; there remain information security risks as a result of manual processes for transferring information from police to CPS and there is limited use of the secure email system among defence representatives which results in unnecessary printing and courier costs. Recommendations include:

- Police, CPS and HM Courts and Tribunals Service to undertake a comprehensive national cost / benefit assessment informed by information from a local level
- NPCC, CPS and HM Courts and Tribunals Service to jointly reach a solution to enable all CJ partners and defence representatives to access all forms of evidence by electronic means
- All police forces and CPS areas should, as a matter of urgency, review arrangements for the secure provision, transportation and storage of hard media
- Police and CPS should agree common and consistent naming conventions for all documents
- NPCC should review its business areas and increase the co-ordination of digital policing programmes

[Tri-service review of the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles \(JESIP\)](#) – 12th April 2016

HMIC-led review of how the police, fire and ambulance services work together during major incidents found that coherent and routine working is yet to be embedded across the services. Despite some positive examples, the national picture remains inconsistent. The report makes recommendations for the emergency services to:-

- Ensure JESIP is part of initial and continuation training and shared across the wider responder community (e.g. Maritime and Coast Guard Agency and Border Agency)
- Provide central guidance and direction to ensure JESIP remains a high priority
- Ensure greater knowledge and understanding of the capabilities of 'Airwave'
- Make greater use of interoperable channels at incidents

HMIC Inspection Programme published 22nd March 2016

- PEEL: Efficiency, Legitimacy and Leadership – Fieldwork Spring 2016
- [JTAI Missing and absent children & child sexual exploitation \(thematic\)](#) – Summer 2016
- PEEL: Effectiveness (prevention, investigations, vulnerability, SPR, ROCUs) – Fieldwork Autumn 2016
- HMIC Thematic Inspections: crime recording, counter-terrorism - unannounced visits
- Joint Inspections of Stalking and Harassment (HMIC-led)
- Joint targeted [Child Protection Inspection](#) (Ofsted-led) – Rolling programme
- Joint inspection of Police Custody Arrangements (HMI Prisons-led) – Rolling programme

3. Reviews and Inquiries

[Reform of the Police Funding Formula inquiry](#) [Report \(11 Dec 2015\)](#)

Commons Home Affairs Committee recommendations awaiting government response

[Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill inquiry](#) [Report \(29 Jan 2016\)](#)

CLG Committee recommendations awaiting government response

[Financial sustainability of fire and rescue services inquiry](#) [Report \(17 Feb 2016\)](#)

Public Accounts Committee recommendations awaiting government response

- [Police Diversity inquiry](#) – [Oral evidence](#) – 12th April
One-off evidence session investigating diversity in the police
- [Role of the magistracy inquiry](#) Latest evidence – 22nd March 2016
Justice Committee Inquiry into the current and future role of the magistracy
- [Proceeds of crime inquiry](#) Oral evidence – 8th March 2016
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the effectiveness of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002
- [Efficiency in the Criminal Justice System](#) – Oral evidence - 17th March 2016
Public Accounts Committee evidence session exploring CJ efficiencies and the programme of reform
- [Prostitution inquiry](#) Oral evidence in progress – 1st March 2016
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into the way prostitution is treated in legislation
- [Restorative justice inquiry](#) Latest evidence – 23rd February 2016
Justice Committee Inquiry into use of restorative justice in criminal justice system
- [Young adult offenders inquiry](#) Oral evidence – 2nd February 2016
Justice Committee considering the Harris Review and evidence on treatment of young adults within CJS
- [Countering extremism inquiry](#) Oral evidence – 2nd February 2016
Home Affairs Committee inquiry into Government's new five year counter extremism strategy
- [Forensic Science Strategy inquiry](#) Deadline closed for written submissions
Science and Technology Committee exploring extent to which previous concerns have been met
- [Cyber security: Protection of personal data online inquiry](#) Oral evidence – 27th January 2016
Culture, Media and Sport Committee inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the TalkTalk data breach
- [Support for ex-offenders inquiry](#) Accepting [written submissions](#) until 22nd April 2016
Work and Pensions Committee Inquiry into benefits and support available to offenders leaving prison
- [The rise of anti-Semitism inquiry](#) Announced 12th April
Home Affairs Committee to explore prejudice against the Jewish community dangers arising from terrorism
- [The College of Policing inquiry](#) Announced 9th March
Home Affairs Committee follow up to 2015 [report](#) will consider policing education and qualifications
- [Lammy Review of BAME representation in the CJS](#) Accepting [evidence](#) until 30th June 2016
Review into the over-representation of BAME groups at most stages of the criminal justice system
[David Lammy MP visits court to gather evidence](#) – 13th April
- [Child Sexual Abuse Inquiry \(Goddard\)](#) Ongoing
Inquiry comprising 13 investigations into institutional failures in protecting children against sexual abuse
March: Preliminary hearings held for [Lord Janner](#), [Anglican Church, Rochdale](#) and [Lambeth Council](#)

4. Research, Development and Statistics

[The future of public services: digital policing](#) – 14th April 2016

Case study report from the Reform 'think tank' examines how technology and digital initiatives can help police forces manage demand, improve officer productivity and invest in preventative policing. The paper uses the example of West Midlands Police (WMP) to demonstrate what a digitally-enabled police service might look like. The three pronged WMP2020 plan comprises: channel shift for citizen interactions, increased productivity through more effective resource deployment and preventative policing using data analytics.

[Radicalisation in prisons in England and Wales](#) – 14th April 2016

Commons Library briefing analysis examines the difference between faith and radicalisation, why people become radicalised, how radicalisation is being countered in prisons and whether the National Offender Management Service is doing enough.

[Better Business Compliance Partnership Evaluation](#) – 12th April 2016

Cabinet Office evaluation of a partnership programme involving 5 local authority-led partnerships in Cheshire West and Chester, Cornwall, Ealing, Hertfordshire and Manchester and Salford. The programme explored innovative ways to make joint working between national and local agencies more systematic and strengthen the response to fraud, rogue traders and other illicit economic activity. A range of changes implemented by the partnerships helped to improve intelligence sharing, targeted enforcement and compliance activities.

[Devolution to local government in England](#) – 5th April 2016

Commons briefing paper analysing the 'devolution deals' agreed between central and local government to date

[Statutory Homelessness in England](#) – 4th April

Commons briefing paper providing statistics on statutory homelessness and overview of government policy

[Violence at work: Findings from the Crime Survey for England and Wales](#) – 31st March 2016

Findings reported by the Health and Safety Executive indicate that while the number of violent incidents at work has declined over the last decade, the incident rate has remained stable over the last five years, with 1.2 per cent of working adults being the victims of one or more violent incidents at work (1.1% of women and 1.3% of men). 58% per cent of violence at work resulted in no physical injury, of the remaining 42% of cases, minor bruising or a black eye accounted for the majority of the injuries recorded.

[Improving identification and disclosure of sexual exploitation among young men](#) – March 2016

The Children's Society report '[Boys Don't Cry](#)' explores the issue of boys and young men who have been trafficked into the UK and experience sexual exploitation. The report examines the scale of exploitation and barriers to it being identified for this particularly vulnerable group. The report makes five recommendations which include investment in training for frontline staff and managers within Local Authority, Home Office, police, health workers and schools, including training in using a trauma-informed approach to ensure interviews of vulnerable young people about their experiences of sexual abuse and rape are conducted in a sensitive manner and appropriate adults are consistently provided.

5. Legislation

[Enterprise Bill](#) - Ping Pong stage – 19th April 2016

Make provision regarding promotion of enterprise and economic growth; restricting exit payments in relation to public sector employment; introduces apprenticeship commencement targets for public sector bodies with more than 250 employees and the establishment of an Institute to regulate quality.

[Immigration Bill](#) - Ping Pong stage – TBC

Make provision about the law on immigration and asylum; access to services, facilities, licences and work by reference to immigration status; language requirements for public sector workers; fees for passports and civil registration; provision about the Director of Labour Market Enforcement. [Final amendments](#) made 12th April.

[Online Safety Bill](#) - Lords Report stage - TBC

Private Members' Bill to make provision about the promotion and provision of online safety including parent education; requiring ISPs and mobile phone operators to provide a service that excludes adult content; require manufacturers to provide a means of filtering internet content; and regulate harmful on-demand material

[Road Traffic Act 1988 \(Alcohol Limits\) \(Amendment\) Bill 2015-16](#) - Lords Report stage – 22nd April 2016

Private Members' Bill to lower prescribed limit of alcohol in breath, blood and urine by 37%

[Policing and Crime Bill](#) - Commons Report stage – 26th April 2016

Make provision for Emergency Services Collaboration; Police complaints, discipline and inspection reform; changes affecting the police workforce and representative institutions; Police powers and PCCs; Firearms and alcohol licensing; and Miscellaneous provisions. [Supporting documents and briefings](#) [Commons analysis paper](#) [Bill as amended](#) at Committee stage 12th April 2016

[Investigatory Powers Bill](#) - Commons Committee stage – 19th April 2016

Make provision about the interception, acquisition and retention of communications data and other bulk data for analysis and the use of equipment interference. Establish the Investigatory Powers Commissioner and other Commissioners and make provision about oversight arrangements; make further provision about investigatory powers and national security; amend s3 and s5 of Intelligence Services Act 1994. Due to be enacted in 2016 See [Commons Briefing Paper](#) and [Joint Select Committee recommendations](#) for further information
Public Bill Committee accepting [written evidence submissions](#) until 5th May

[Advertising of Prostitution \(Prohibition\) Bill](#) - Lords Committee stage - TBC

Private Members' Bill to prohibit the advertising of prostitution

[Age of Criminal Responsibility Bill](#) - Lords Committee stage - TBC

Private Members' Bill to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 12

[Victims of Crime Etc \(Rights, Entitlements\) Bill 2015-16](#) - Second reading in Commons – 22nd April 2016

Private Members Bill to make further provision regarding duties and responsibilities of Victims' Commissioner; and the Victims' Code; require PCCs to assess the needs of victims and effectiveness of services and publish annual victims' plans; establish duty to report suspected child abuse by those working in regulated activities, code of practice on the recording of allegations, right of appeal by victims against a decision to cease a criminal investigation; standards for the review of open or reopened homicide cases; provision about court procedures relating to vulnerable victims and witnesses. [Commons Briefing paper](#)

[Child Victims of Human Trafficking Bill 2015-16](#) - Second reading in Commons – 22nd April 2016

Introduce new safeguarding and protection duties for child (under 18) victims of human trafficking

[Criminal Driving \(Justice for Victims\) Bill](#) - Second reading in Commons – 22nd April 2016

Private Members' Bill to change the law to improve justice for the victims and families of road crime

[Cannabis \(Legalisation and Regulation\) Bill 2015-16](#) - Second reading in Commons – 22nd April 2016

Private Members' Bill to amend Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to provide for lawful production, sale, packaging, marketing, purchase, possession and consumption of herbal cannabis in specific circumstances

[Convicted Prisoners Voting Bill 2015-16](#) - Second reading in Commons – 6th May 2016

Make provision for rules relating to the exclusion of convicted prisoners from participation in elections

[Foreign National Offenders \(Exclusion from UK\) Bill 2015-16](#) - Second reading in Commons - TBC

Make provision for the removal and exclusion of any foreign national convicted in a UK imprisonable offence Division called at [second reading](#) on 11th March: rescheduled for debate

[Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment \(Amendment\) Bill](#) - 2015-16 Second reading in Lords - TBC

Private Members' Bill (17th March) to raise penalty for littering offences; provide for an offence that relates to allowing a dog to foul the land; and require local authorities to provide appropriate and convenient litter disposal

[Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill](#) - Second reading in Lords - TBC

Amendments to the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 introducing revised rehabilitation requirements

[Prisons Bill](#) - Announced as part of the [Prime Ministers Prison Reform Speech](#) – 8th Feb 2016

Draft Bill will make provision for new 'reform prisons'; transformation of the prison education system; new performance metrics / League Tables; new prison-based counter extremism programme; 'secure alternative academies' for young offenders; [problem-solving courts](#); expanded use of tags / satellite tracking and new arrangements for [women offenders with children](#)

6. Consultations

[Better use of data in government](#)

Cabinet Office consultation seeking views on proposals to enable greater information sharing between public authorities in order to improve public services, address fraud and debt and inform research and official statistics. This includes proposals to share personal data in specific contexts and give the Office for National Statistics access to detailed administrative government data.

Open date: 29/02/2016

Close date: 22/04/2016

[Foreign Travel Advice service](#)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office consultation on the UK's Foreign Travel Advice service seeking the views of British nationals to inform a review of the way the service presents travel information, including security and safety advice, in a way that is easily accessible and readily understood.

Open date: 21/03/2016

Close date: 22/04/2016

[Reduction in sentence for a guilty plea guideline](#)

The Sentencing Council is consulting on a revised guideline for guilty plea sentence reductions to clarify the levels of reduction appropriate for the different stages at which the plea is entered. This follows data suggesting that levels of reductions in some cases appear to be higher than those recommended by the guideline.

Open date: 11/02/2016

Close date: 05/05/2016

[Independent review of deaths and serious incidents in police custody](#)

Home Office consultation seeking views from stakeholders and members of the public on deaths and serious incidents in police custody, including the lead up to incidents, the immediate aftermath and the conclusion of official investigations. Findings will be used to inform an independent review of the procedures and processes surrounding deaths and serious incidents in police custody which is scheduled to be published summer 2016.

Open date: 26/02/2016

Close date: 06/05/2016

[Investigatory Powers Bill](#)

Public Bill Committee call for written evidence from those with a special interest or expertise or with factual information of which the Committee should be aware.

Open date: 16/03/2016

Close date: 05/05/2016

[Revised CPS Guidelines on Prosecuting Social Media Cases](#)

CPS consultation on revised guidelines for the prosecution of cases covering a range of current, new and emerging social media related offences committed online, including setting up fake online profiles and websites in order to abuse others, offences involving revenge pornography and controlling or coercive behaviour. The new guidelines aim to provide clear advice to help prosecutors deal with cyber-enabled crime.

Open date: 03/03/2016

Close date: 12/05/2016

[Firefighter's pension scheme regulations](#)

Seeking views from fire and rescue authorities, members of firefighters' pension schemes and employee representative bodies on ensuring survivors of firefighters who die in the line of duty do not lose their benefits on re-marriage and other minor technical amendments associated with the career average 2015 scheme.

Open date: 18/03/2016

Close date: 13/05/2016

[Stop and Search Guidance](#)

College of Policing consultation on proposed content of authorised professional practice (APP) guidance for Stop and Search aimed primarily at frontline officers and those with other relevant knowledge, skills and experience. Invites responses to specific questions and comments on any individual section of the APP.

Open date: 31/03/2016

Close date: 15/05/2016

[Revising PACE codes C, D and H](#)

Home Office consultation on draft codes of practice C, D and H under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). Changes to codes C and H predominantly concern use of interpretation services via live-link where the interpreter's physical presence is not necessary, consistency between Codes C and H regarding electronic reporting, appropriate adult roles and the detention of children and adults and female detainees. Changes to code D bring it up to date with other subsequent guidance and provisions and guidance, including the EU Directive on translation and interpretation, the Equality Act 2010, the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (retention of fingerprints and DNA) and Border Force operational guidance.

Open date: 23/03/2016

Close date: 17/05/2016

[BAME representation in the Criminal Justice System](#)

Call for evidence from victims, witnesses, offenders, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, staff and other stakeholders on their views, experience and insights into BAME representation in the CJS. Evidence will be used to inform the Lammy Review into the over-representation of BAME groups at most stages of the criminal justice system, considering issues arising from the CPS involvement onwards - including the court system, in prisons and rehabilitation in the wider community. Consultation is also inviting more informal contributions via the Twitter hashtag #lammyreview

Open date: 21/03/2016

Close date: 30/06/2016

[Police use of force](#)

IPCC consultation seeking feedback on the research study 'Police use of force' aims to help the organisation understand how people are using the research.

Open date: 08/03/2016

Close date: TBC